

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 6-9 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
 - a first substrate on a main surface thereof, a black mask and color filters, each arranged in an aperture of the black mask, being formed;
 - a liquid crystal layer;
 - a second substrate disposed opposite to the first substrate across the liquid crystal layer and stuck to the first substrate by a sealing material applied to peripheries of a main surface of the first substrate facing the liquid crystal layer and of a main surface of the second substrate facing the liquid crystal layer;
 - a stacked structure formed on the main surface of the second substrate by stacking in order first signal lines, an insulating film covering the first signal lines, and second signal lines each overlappingly intersecting the first signal lines over the insulating film therebetween; and
 - first spacers and second spacers both formed on the main surfaces of the first substrate ~~to be pressed against the black mask by an external force~~ and arranged on the black mask and in the liquid crystal layer,
 - wherein ~~in the absence of the external force,~~ each of the second spacers is ordinarily spaced from the stacked structure formed on the second substrate to accommodate the liquid crystal layer therebetween, and each of the first spacers ~~directly~~ ordinarily contacts directly contacts with the stacked structure formed on the second substrate.
- 2-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the second spacers contacts with the stacked structure formed on the second substrate while the first spacers are subjected to ~~[[the]]~~ an external force and elastically deformed.

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein portions of the stacked structure contacting with the ~~[[second]]~~ first spacers ~~[[is]]~~ are thicker than portions of the stacked structure corresponding to the second spacers with the liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween.
8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the first spacers contacts with the stacked structure at an overlappingly intersecting position~~[[s]]~~ of one of the first signal lines and one of the second signal lines, and
~~each of the second spacers corresponds to positions of the first signal lines which are overlappingly intersecting with the second signal lines to accommodate the liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween~~ contacts with another part of the stacked structure which includes one of the first signal lines but excludes any one of the second signal lines.
9. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the black mask and the color filters are covered by a protective film ~~[[4]]~~ to bury steps formed by the black mask and the color filters, and the first spacers and the second spacers are formed on top of the protective film.
10. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the first spacers is formed on top of a base pattern which is formed on areas of the black mask, while the base pattern is not formed on areas of the black mask where the second spacers are formed.
11. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 10, wherein a protective film covers the black mask, the color filters, and the base patterns such that the first spacers are formed on areas of the protective film while the second spacers are formed on other areas of the protective film covering the black mask but not the base patterns.

12. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device, according to claim 1, wherein the second substrate has a plurality of pixels arranged on the main surface thereof, and each of the pixels has a switching element controlled by one of the first signal lines and a pixel electrode receiving a signal from one of the second signal lines through the switching element.